



Five Day Gorilla Trekking Safari in Rwanda

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Tour Highlights

ENCOUNTER endangered mountain gorillas in their natural habitat — the largest living primates on the planet.

EXPLORE the clean, progressive city of Kigali. Visit the Genocide Memorial and a non-profit organization that offers career training to local women.

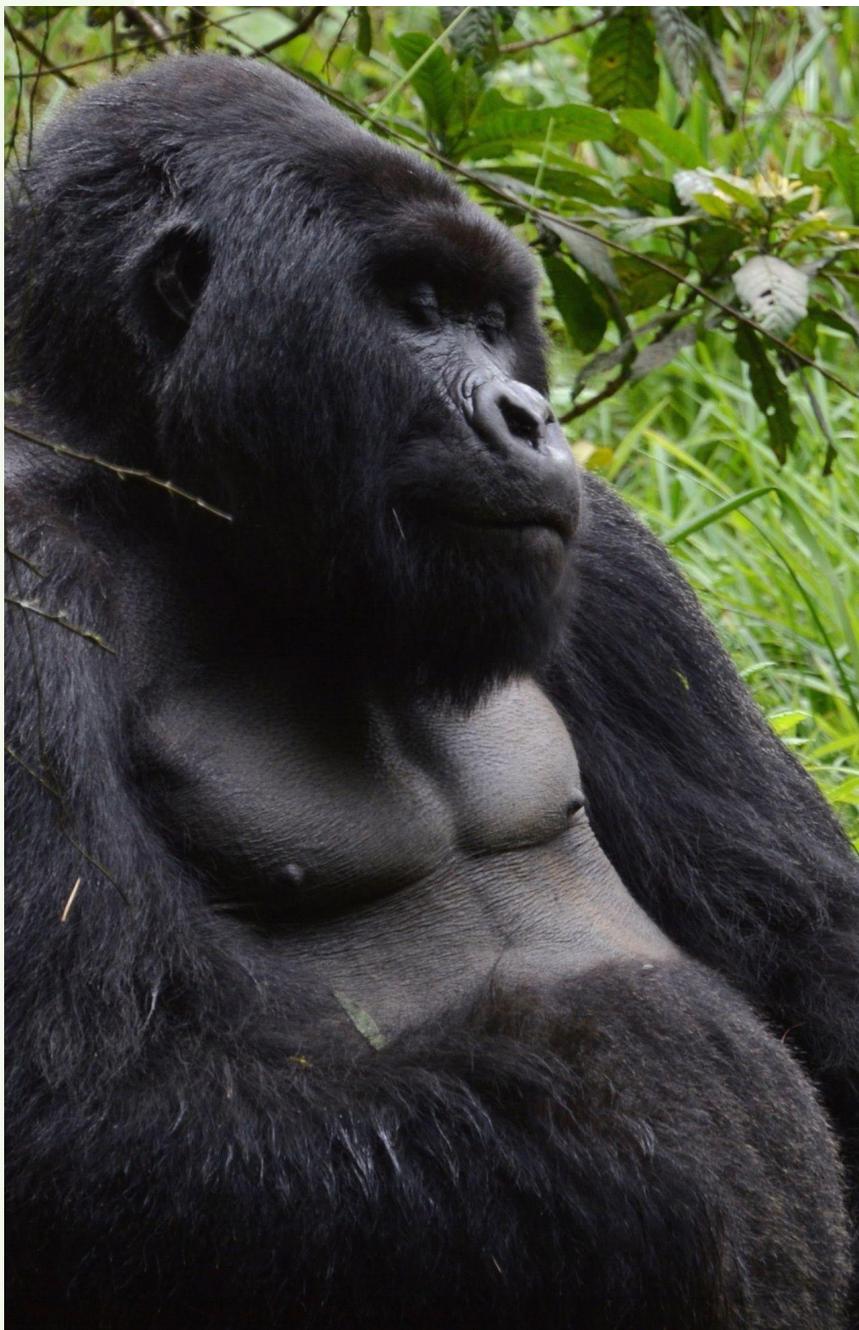
TRACK beautiful golden monkeys while we keep an eye out for elephants and buffalo.

LEARN how to make banana wine and weave traditional baskets at a cultural center.

SAVOR some of the world's finest coffee, grown right here on the hills of Rwanda.

JOIN in a Rwandan cooking class and eat the lunch we make with locals.

We pay for Carbon Neutralization for each guest to minimize your trip's impact on the environment.



What's Included

- All National Park entrance fees, including one Gorilla trekking experience (\$1,500 permit included) and one Golden Monkey trekking experience with rangers and trackers.
- Lodging for all four nights in comfortable hotels
- Local guides
- Guided tour of Kigali and an audio tour of the the genocide memorial
- Visit to the Ellen Degeneres Campus of Karisoke Research Center
- Red Rocks Cultural Center visit
- All meals included on Days 2-4 (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). Day 5 includes breakfast.

We pay for Carbon Neutralization for each guest to minimize your tour's impact on the environment.

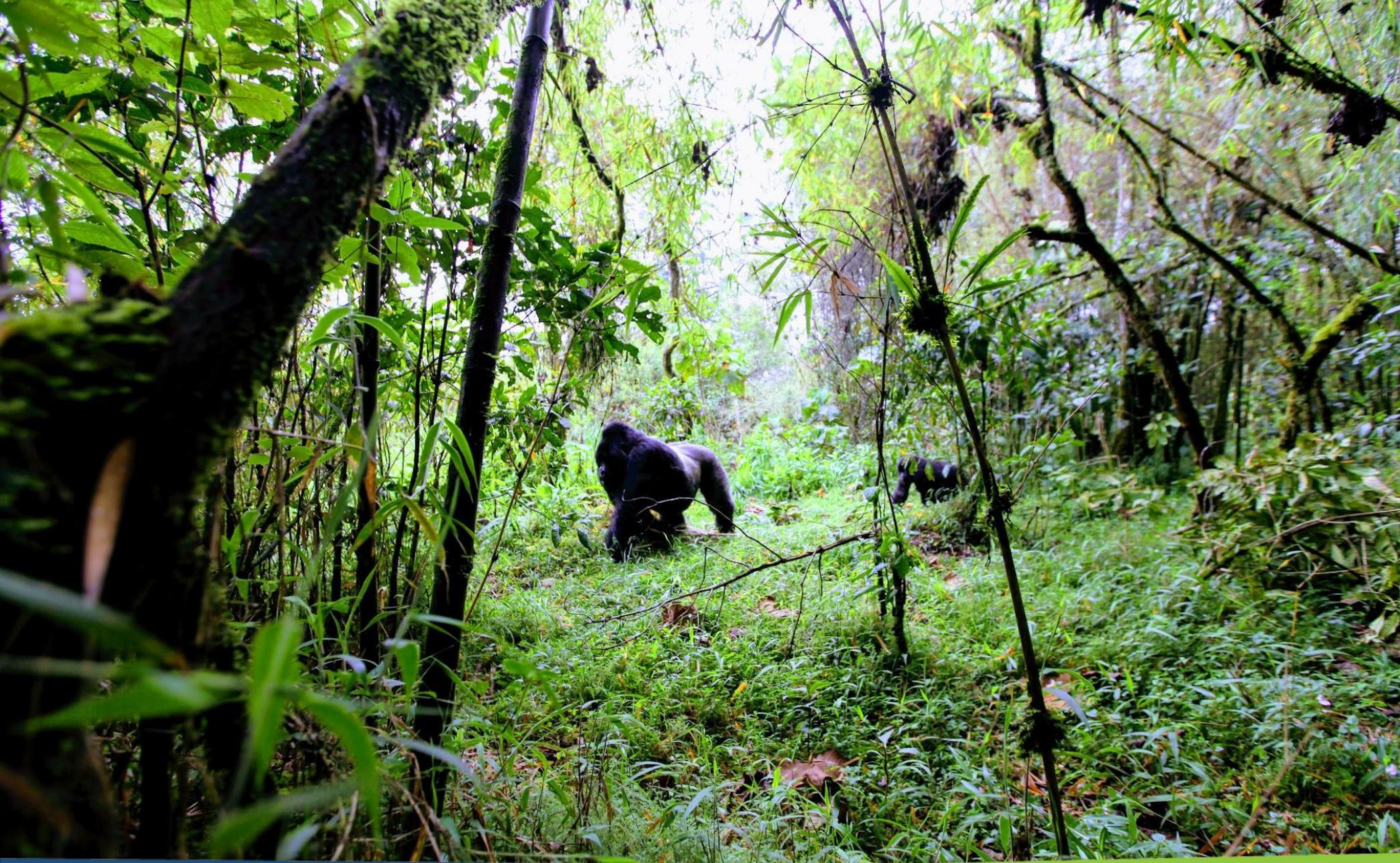
Tour Dates & Prices

	Rwanda Gorilla Trekking Safari
Tour dates*	July 23 - 27, 2024 August 3 - 7, 2024
Tour price	\$4,200 (price is per person, assumes double occupancy). Single supplement is \$385.
Activity level	Moderate to challenging. Guests must be physically fit to hike off trail at an incline for three to four miles in the rainforest.
Not included	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flights to and from Rwanda• Meals on the arrival and departure day• Alcohol• Souvenirs• Tips for guides and drivers• Porters for bag/personal assistance available for a fee during hikes

*We are currently working on revamping the itinerary for future 2025 dates and beyond.

Tour Map





TOUR ITINERARY



Day One

Upon arrival at Kigali International Airport, a driver / guide will transfer you to Heaven Boutique Hotel. After check-in you're free to relax in the room, by the pool or in the restaurant. If you arrive early, your guide may propose exploring the nearby city center or visiting the somber, but informative Genocide Memorial. If there's not time for that, you may have the opportunity on the last day of your visit to Rwanda.



Day Two

Following an early breakfast at the hotel, we will head to ASPIRE Rwanda, a non-profit that provides child care and career training to local women. Learn how to cook traditional Rwandan food and then eat lunch with the organizers and participants of ASPIRE. Gondwana Ecotours makes a donation in exchange for the nonprofit's time with us. Afterwards, we depart for Ruhengeri, the second largest city in Rwanda. Enjoy the beautiful backdrop of the five volcanic mountains—the Virungas—at Mountain Gorilla Lodge. We'll eat dinner at the lodge, likely going to bed early to get rested for a long day tomorrow.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included



Day Three

We eat an early breakfast and then head to Kinigi Park headquarters to meet our guides for the day. We'll set out for an easy/medium level hike to see the famous Golden Monkeys deep inside Volcanoes National Park. The monkeys are accustomed to human visitors and are usually very social and fun to watch. Though viewing is kept to about an hour, expect an up-close look at these wonderful monkeys in their natural habitat. Adult monkeys frolic in the trees, feeding on bamboo leaves and leaping from perch to perch. Females carry their youngest and don't appear bothered by our presence.

After leaving the forest we'll sit down for lunch. In the afternoon we visit Iby'iwacu Cultural Village, a non-profit organization that aims at improving the lives of reformed poachers and communities around Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park through conservation incentives, supporting enterprise development, and livelihood based projects. We visit the Karisoke Research Center next. Founded by world-renowned primatologist, Dian Fossey, the institute continues her legacy of mountain gorilla conservation with support from Ellen DeGeneres. This meaningful experience includes observing gorillas in their natural habitat, learning about the protection efforts for gorillas and their neighboring communities, and enjoying Rwanda's breathtaking landscapes. We return to the lodge afterwards for a delicious dinner and restful overnight.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included





Day Four

Following an early breakfast, we proceed to the National Park headquarters to meet our guides for the day. After completing necessary paperwork to visit the gorillas, we embark on a once in a lifetime experience of tracking mountain gorillas. The trekking may be fairly strenuous; up to six hours or longer at a relatively high altitude, so being in good shape and capable of walking on muddy, uneven ground in hot and humid conditions is a must.

Once we spot the gorillas, we are allowed to spend an hour watching our closest mammal cousin. This is perhaps one of the most breathtaking wildlife experiences on earth! You get so close to these awesome giant primates, often staring into their soulful eyes. Tracking the gorillas through the light mountain forest on the slopes of the Virunga is a magical experience. These massive primates are extremely rare, with less than 700 living today. We get within feet of these gentle giants and are privileged to spend an hour amongst them.

Later that day, we visit the Red Rocks Cultural Center, where you will have a chance to meet locals, see their artwork, learn how to weave traditional baskets and make banana beer! Then we return to the lodge for dinner and one last overnight.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included

Day Five

After breakfast at the lodge, we head back to Kigali and prepare for your journey home. Drive back from the park and, if you have time and haven't had the chance yet, visit the Genocide Memorial and some arts markets around town. The Kigali airport can take a long time to get through, so you will need to leave a few hours early for the airport security screenings.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime wildlife viewing tour and a chance to get to know a truly unique and progressive culture in Eastern Africa.

Breakfast Included

“

Excellent!! The tour was literally once-in-a-lifetime experience. Our local wildlife guides were experienced and knew the animals and their behaviors well. The size of the group was small which made everything doable. Our accommodations were very pleasant and comfortable throughout this tour. All in all I would give this tour a six out of possible 5.”

- David L.





ACCOMMODATIONS



Heaven Boutique Hotel

Heaven Boutique Hotel is a wonderful 4-Star accommodation with 28 rooms located on two separate properties on a peaceful, residential road. The rooms feature local Rwandan décor, the hospitality is wonderful, and Heaven Restaurant serves delicious breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Guests also have access to a solar-heated salt water swimming pool, outdoor yoga deck, and fitness center.



Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

The Mountain Gorilla View Lodge is located ten minutes away from the Volcanoes National Park. Surrounded by lush trees and commanding a panoramic view of the surrounding volcanoes, the lodge includes 40 cottages. The cottages are made from stone and thatch and feature spacious and comfortable rooms with views of the spectacular surroundings. The onsite restaurant offers a mix of local and international dishes served buffet style.

Occasionally our first choice hotels don't have availability so we reserve the right to swap the accommodations if needed for others of comparable standards.



Our Guides

We work with a carefully selected crew of expert guides. Our guides are from Rwanda and are familiar with the region's geography, natural history, flora, fauna, culture, history, and customs. Our local guide team are personable, professional, courteous, friendly, and excited to show our guests their home country. All of our guides, rangers, and trackers are vetted, trained, and hold relevant certifications to guide in Rwanda or Uganda and its respective National Parks.

We typically assign guides to specific departure dates a few months out and you'll receive more information about your specific guide or guides before you travel.



Our Operations Manager
Greg Bakunzi

Greg Bakunzi is our Rwandan operations manager who, along with his talented team of local guides, focuses on the endangered mountain gorillas that reside in Volcanoes National Park. In his career that spans two decades, Bakunzi has been a driving force in the Great Lakes region tourism industry.

Greg may not personally be your guide, but he is in charge and has extensively trained everyone on his staff and they will make sure you are well taken care of and shown only the best of the region. He also runs Red Rocks Cultural Center and is involved in local politics.



GENERAL INFORMATION

FAQ - GETTING THERE AND BACK

Is This Trip For Me?

- Our Gorilla Trekking Safari requires moderate mobility and physical fitness. You should be able to walk on uneven terrain without established trails for three to four miles unassisted while navigating inclines and chances of slippery terrain. Additionally, you should be able to comfortably enter and exit vans and buses without assistance.

When should I arrive in Rwanda?

- You should plan to arrive at the Kigali International Airport (KGL) during the day or early evening. This trip is often bundled together with our [Tanzania Great Migration Safari](#), which is either a direct flight away from Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO) or one layover in Nairobi or Dar Es Salaam.

What do I do once I arrive?

- Send us your flight itinerary and we will arrange for a company representative to pick you up at the airport outside baggage claim with a sign. Make sure you travel with a passport valid for six months from the date of entry and your visa will be issued upon arrival in Rwanda.

What if I want to come and explore before Day 1?

- Complimentary transportation to your hotel will be provided by Gondwana if you arrive early. If you would like help arranging a hotel we are happy to help.

What should I do in preparation for my departure?

- You can depart at the Kigali International Airport (KGL) in the afternoon or later on the last day of the tour. Transfer to the airport is included.

What if I want to stay longer?

- For those of you who will be staying longer in Rwanda, feel free to ask us for help or suggestions! We can also offer an 8-day itinerary that includes Lake Kivu and/or Nyungwe Forest National Park and/or gorilla trekking in Uganda.

How do I sign up?

- Secure your spots with a \$1500 per person deposit (via phone, email, or on our [website](#)). The deposit is used to secure your gorilla trekking permit and is non-refundable. The remaining balance is due 120 days before the tour departs. Read our complete [Booking Agreement here >](#). After signing up, we will send you a confirmation message and valuable information to prepare you for the trip. We will also send you two easy forms to submit with your registration information and flight details.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

Our promise is to deliver custom crafted and authentically local travel experiences that send you home with lifelong memories of your unique adventure. We strive to put our values into practice with every Ecotour that we create.

AUTHENTIC Our adventures are filled with nature and culture that will amaze, enlighten and deeply connect you with the region.

LOCAL GUIDES Enjoy the unbeatable experience of local guides who love to share their country, culture and customs.

SUPPORT Our guest services team is available for any assistance you need before your trip. We provide a detailed pre-trip guide and packing list so you know what to expect and what to pack.

SUSTAINABLE To minimize our trip's impact on the environment we pay to carbon neutralize the entire tour and activities, as well as carbon offsetting guest flights to and from Norway.

LOW IMPACT Our ecotours leave a small impact on the environment because of the small group size of 18 and the activities.

UNIQUE LODGING Feel the heart of the destination by staying at some memorable hotels. We book at locally owned and eco-friendly hotels whenever possible.



We hope you'll join us on an upcoming Gorilla Trekking Adventure!

A \$1,500 per person deposit is all that's needed to reserve this adventure. Contact us via phone or email to reserve your spot!

(877) 587-8479

info@gondwanaecotours.com

[PAY DEPOSIT >](#)

Visit us anytime at GondwanaEcotours.com to plan your next excursion!